



## Introduction — Disaster Preparation

Disaster can strike at any time. The purpose of this chapter is to help you prepare for a disaster. This chapter summarizes severe weather terms, offers advice on identifying potential hazards in your home, and can help you prepare your household, both people and pets, for a disaster. Special planning for elderly and disabled populations is also included.

Animal care professionals will find the state Animal Disaster Plan (Section 2.12) a helpful document which summarizes how animals are cared for during and after a disaster. This document is based on the Florida Animal Disaster Plan.

Special sections feature practical advice for farmers and greenhouse managers, with information about power failures and electric generators. A lengthy section features the Emergency Management Guide for Business and Industry, a helpful document for any business owner, no matter how small or large the enterprise.

Floods, hurricanes, sinkholes, hazardous materials spills, and fires are all scary things to think about. However, preparing for a disaster can help us overcome our fears. Preparation can help people react calmly to the unexpected and can reduce the loss of life and property in the event of an emergency.

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